

is observ'd in *Calabria*, and is call'd in their language *Coccio maligno*. It ariseth on the surface of the body, in the form of a small speck, of the bignes of a lupin. It causeth some pain, and if it grow not soon red thereupon, it in a very short time certainly kills. 'Tis the common opinion of those people, that such a distemper befalls those only, that have eaten flesh of Animals dead of themselves: which opinion I can from experience affirm to be false. So it frequently falls out, that of many strang effects, we daily meet with, the true cause not being known, such an one is assigned, which is grounded upon some vulgar prejudice. And of this kind I esteem to be the vulgar belief of the cause of that distemper, which appears in those that think themselves stung by *Tarantulas*.

But why should not we rather think, that that distemper is caused by an inward disposition, like that vvhich in some place of *Germany* is vvont to produce that evil, vvhich they call *Chore, Sti Viti, St. Vite's dance*. But of this I hope I shall soon be able to write my thoughts more fully, vvhich vvill, I think, be sufficient to refute that fable of the *Tarantula*.

An Account of the Apouensian Baths near Padua; communicated by the foremention'd Inquisitive Gentleman, Mr. Dodington, in a Letter written to the Publisher from Venice March 18. 1672.

S I R,

In the Observations and History of Nature possibly this may not be unvworthy the notice. Five miles from *Padua* are the vватers, call'd *Aponensia*, from a tovvn called *Aponum*, famous in antiquity, and among others frequently mention'd by *Livy*. vvill not doubt, but that Sr. I.F. and D B. two worthy members o the *R. Society* and who lived long in *Padova*, have inform'd them selves most exactly of what ever I shall be able to say on this Subject; however I do not scruple to give you a short relation of it.

The waters are actually very hot. Secondly, they are stinking. Thirdly, they yield a great deal of very fine salt; of which the natives serve themselves in their ordinary occasions. This salt is the thing, I think most considerable there. It is gather'd in thi manner: The Natives, after Sun set, stirr peices of wood in the water, and presently the Salt sticks to them, and comes off i small flakes, exceeding white, and very salt. This never losset its favour. The people there, with the same water use to wat

the:

their wales, to render them whiter then ordinary ; which it doth even whiter than lime. Such wales conserve their saltneſſe ſome few daies only, and then become inſipid, even though they ſweat forth a white excreſcence in thin and light flakes like niter, many years after. But that Salt, which is collected from the ſtones, gravel and earth, by which the rivolets, descending from thoſe Baths, do run, is without any taſt of Salt ; though there be no diſference in the form or colour from that which is gather'd with the wooden instruments, by me mentioned. This is the Sum of what I have to ſay at preſent of this particular. If you think the matter tanti, I will ſend you a more ample deſcription there-of, with my thoughts upon it.

Reflections made by P. Francisco Lana S.J. upon an Observation of Signor M. Antonio Caſtagna, Super intendent of ſome mines in Italy, concerning the formation of Crystals : Englifh'd out of the XI. Venetian Giornale de Letterati.

IN the laſt month of September, being arrived in the *Val Sabbia* into a place call'd le *Mezzane*, where I knew that thoſe Crystals are generated, I obſerv'd in a ſpacious round of a Meddow, ſeated on a hillock, ſome narrow places bare of all herbs, in which alone, and no where else thereabout, thoſe Crystals are produced, being all ſex-angular, both points of them terminating in a pyramidal figure, ſex-angular likewiſe.

I was told, that they were produced from the dews, because (forſooth !) being gather'd over night, the next morning there would be found others at ſuch a time only, when it was a ſerene and dewy ſky; and that upon the herbs of the meddow, and without the bounds of thoſe bare and ſterile places never any Crystals were to be found; besides, that the ground having been in ſome places bared of all greens, and reduced to the condition of thoſe other naked places, yet no crystals were ever ſeen to have been form'd there. But I, when I had examined, that in the neighbour-hood of that hill there was no mark at all of any Mines, did conclude, that it might be a plenty of nitrous ſteames, which might withal hinder vegetation in thoſe places, and coagulate the Dew falling thereon. And that thoſe exhalations were rather Nitrous, than of an other kind, I was induced to believe, because Niter is not only the natural coagulum of wa-

ter